

REMARKS

We are in receipt of the Office Action of December 30, 2005, and the above amendments and remarks are made in light thereof.

Claims 1-18 and 31-52 are pending in the application. Pursuant to the Office Action each of the pending claims is rejected for obviousness under 35 USC §103(a) over US Patent No. 6,319,321 to Hirage et al. in view of US Patent No. 4,405,487 to Harrah et al. and US Patent No. 6,001,413 to Matsuura et al., either alone, or in combination with the various secondary references.

In response to this rejection, Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 4, 7, 10, 13 and 16 so as to clarify the characteristic of the present invention and to distinguish over the above references. Specifically these claims have been amended to recite “said second mechanism includes a oxidization cell having a lid and a oxygen gettering agent”. (See Specification, pg. 9, lns. 3-5). Upon reviewing the above references, Hirage et al. disclose a stock chamber, a transferring chamber, and a liquid phase film deposition chamber connected to said transferring chamber through a gate. Also Harrah et al. disclose a mechanism for oxidizing an element belonging to Group 1 or 2 of the periodic table. Further, Matsuura et al. disclose that even when substrates are provided in a vacuum enclosure, over time contaminants and impurities may be introduced into the enclosure, thus causing failure or destabilization of the substrates. Additionally, the Examiner asserts that Matsuura et al. disclose a motivation to combine Hirage et al. and Harrah et al. However, these references do not disclose or suggest a mechanism that includes an oxidization cell having a lid. Therefore, these claims, as amended, as well as the claims dependent therefrom, distinguish over Hirage et al., Harrah et al., and Matsuura et al.

Additionally, Claims 47-52 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirage et al., Harrah et al., and Matsuura et al. as applied to claims 1, 13 and 31, above and further in view of US Patent No. 4,225,805 to Smithgall et al. (paragraphs 119-138 of the Office Action).

In this rejection, the Examiner asserts that “Smithgall et al. teach the use of a getter with a lid (protective seal/cover) inside a vacuum container for the purpose of preventing premature exposure/deterioration of the getter material. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the Applicant’s invention was made to have provided a getter with a lid in Hirage et al., Harrah et al., and Matsuura et al. in order to prevent premature exposure/deterioration of the getter material as taught by Smithgall et al.” However, Smithgall et al. do not disclose or suggest any process chamber such as a multi chamber and a film deposition apparatus. Moreover, Smithgall et al. do not disclose or suggest a gettering method which a gettering agent is oxidized and the gettering agent is an element belonging to Group 1 or 2 of the periodic table. Therefore, there is no motivation to combine Hirage et al., Harrah et al., and Matsuura et al. and Smithgall et al. and, thus, Applicants request that this rejection be withdrawn.

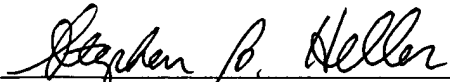
In addition, Applicants have amended claims 47-52 as shown in the attached sheets at this opportunity.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and an early Office Action in this regard is solicited.

If any fee is due for this amendment, please charge our deposit account 50/1039.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 29, 2006



Stephen B. Heller
Registration No. 30,181

COOK, ALEX, McFARRON, MANZO,
CUMMINGS & MEHLER, LTD.
200 West Adams Street
Suite 2850
Chicago, Illinois 60606
(312) 236-8500

Customer no. 000026568